

# STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

## ***New Zealand Tea Tree***

Maui County Priority Pest for Molokai:

### **New Zealand Tea Tree**

#### **(*Leptospermum scoparium*)**

has escaped cultivation and now grows in dense thickets in natural areas at altitudes between 300-700 m (985-2,300 ft).

### **Identification**

**Height-** up to 6 m (20 ft)

**Flower-** small white to pink flowers

**Fruit-** numerous 5 valved brown seeds (1.5 mm)

**Leaves-** Lancelike, narrow (8-15 mm wide); alternate growth pattern

**Look for-** astringent "tea tree oil" smell



Shrub with many thin, erect stems



Flower and seed detail



White flowered variety growing wild in a Maui pasture

## **Don't mistake New Zealand tea tree for these look-alikes:**



### **Pukiawe (*Styphelia tameiameia*):**

Pukiawe is a small, variable shrub that is native to Hawaii. This shrub ranges from coastal to alpine, though it is most prominent in higher elevations. The small lance-like leaves often have a dull white hue. Flowers are white to pink, and smaller than the tea trees. Mature fruit is dark red, pink or white



### **Other *Leptospermum* species**

Other tea trees are used as landscape trees in Hawaii. Differences are subtle. If unsure of identification, report your plant.

Report online: [www.reportapest.org](http://www.reportapest.org)  
Call in a report  
Maui/Lanai: 573-6471 Molokai: 553-5236

**nbi** Pacific Basin  
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